

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent- I understand it constitutes less than one half of 1% of all local programming. Firthier, I've read that more than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. How can voters cast ballots when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues?

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC must define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming, setting miimums for local civic and electoral affairs programming, with substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, we need access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

Sincerely,

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